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BOOK REVIEW

Title: ORTHOPAEDIC DIAGNOSIS
Author: Hans U. Debrunner, MD. Translated by Gottfried Stiasny, MD, 1982
Publishers: Year Book Medical Publishers, Chicago and London. Georg Thieme Verlag Stuttgart
Price: £11.50

This book might have been better titled Orthopaedic Measurement for it is much more concerned with anthropometric information than with diagnosis. Many of the measurements mentioned are unrelated to abnormal states. For instance we are told that arm span $\times 1.03 \pm .02$ = body length but not what or how it helps us diagnose anything. We are informed that taking a history and doing an examination is very important but there is a paucity of information on the interpretation and the eliciting of physical signs.

Kyphosis is measured clinically with a kyphometer (how biometric can you get) yet a kyphosis and its significance is omitted.

There are some bad editorial lapses such as illustration B p. 103 which is that of a totally intrinsic minus hand and is not a typical ulnar claw hand as labelled.

The text is tortured by a translation which lacks vernacular which makes it irksome to read as illustrated by these examples.

"The procurement of the history also serves to deepen the human contact . . . shocking questions should be avoided and the amanuensis should if necessary be compiled at a later date".

or

"The stay of the blood in the veins can be ascertained by, etc. . . "

or

this sentence which eluded comprehension

"however subjective and mixed information is valuable because it allows the compiling of a record of complex findings that would be nearly impossible to define as subjective information".

I am at a loss to identify an audience for the sort of information this book presents so I do not know to whom it should be recommended.

B. Helal